

REMARKS

Claims 1-24 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Hawkins, U.S. Patent No. 6,000,000 (Hawkins). In light of the foregoing amendments and following remarks, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner's reconsideration and reexamination of all pending claims.

In Applicants' Amendment filed with the RCE on January 10, 2008, Applicants argued that Hawkins does not teach or fairly suggest determining whether the application needs to be updated, let alone providing to the handheld device an application update. In response, the Office Action argued that column 3, lines 10-13 expressly describes a system that is used to update application. This cited section of Hawkins teaches:

The Hotsync memory or resident program first consults a sync registry that contains a list of conduit libraries that are used to synchronize different applications on the personal computer system and the palmtop computer system.

Applicants assert that the synchronization of "different applications on the personal computer system and the palmtop computer system" of Hawkins is distinct from the limitations of "determining whether the application needs to be updated" and "causing the server to provide the handheld device an application update if the application needs to be updated." In support, Hawkins is not concerned with updating applications on a handheld device. Rather, Hawkins is clearly focused on synchronizing databases on a handheld computer system and a personal computer system. Indeed the title indicates that Hawkins is directed to synchronizing data (multiple files) not applications on two different computer systems. Moreover, the Abstract describes that Hawkins' synchronization system synchronizes data for several different applications that run on

the handheld computer system and the personal computer system. Lastly, Hawkins is replete with indications that synchronization is occurring between databases on the handheld computer system and the personal computer system. A review of Hawkins seems to indicate that the section cited in the Office Action is the only instance in Hawkins where it is said that different applications are synchronized. Applicants assert that the synchronization of “different applications” in column 3, lines 10-13 was added by Hawkins by mistake since the rest of Hawkins is clearly concerned with synchronizing “data” of different applications.

To emphasize the foregoing distinction between the independent claims and the cited section of Hawkins, Applicants have amended independent Claims 1 and 11 to indicate that application update metadata is provided to the handheld device if the application needs to be updated. The cited sections of Hawkins do not teach or fairly suggest these limitations. Further, dependent Claims 2 and 12 recite that the application update metadata comprises definitions for screens, views, and/or fields of the application that are used to access the second database in the handheld device.

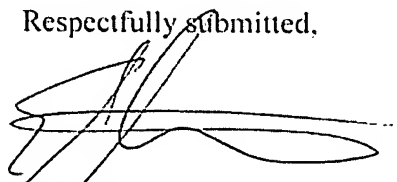
Insofar as independent Claims 1 and 11 recite limitations that are not taught or fairly suggested in the sections of Hawkins cited in the Office Action, Applicants assert that these independent claims are patentably distinguishable. The remaining claims depend from independent Claims 1 and 11 and are patentable for this reason.

CONCLUSION

In view of the amendments and remarks set forth herein, the application and the claims therein are believed to be in condition for allowance without any further examination and a notice to that effect is solicited. Nonetheless, should any issues remain that might be subject to resolution through a telephonic interview, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at 512-439-5093.

If any extensions of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a) are required in order for this submission to be considered timely, Applicant hereby petitions for such extensions. Applicant also hereby authorizes that any fees due for such extensions or any other fee associated with this submission, as specified in 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or § 1.17, be charged to deposit account 502306.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Eric A. Stephenson', written over a horizontal line.

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